

WRITTEN IN ASHES

By Crittenden Marriott

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Come to me. I must see you. KATE. The words on the telegraph blank danced before Frank Howard's eyes, keeping time to the joyful throbbing of his heartstrings. "Come to me," he echoed gleefully. "That means yes, of course. Talk about luck. Let's see! It's 8 o'clock now; if I can catch the 9 o'clock train I ought to get these by tomorrow noon."

"Yes, sah, Miss Mason's in, sah. Walk right in, sah." The old colored man drew aside the thick portieres that hung in the doorway and admitted Frank to the parlor. The voices of both had been low and the man's footsteps made no sound on the soft carpet as he advanced into the room—advanced so silently that a girl, standing by the mantel, with her face resting on her outstung arm, did not hear his approach.

Frank halted and gazed at her with devouring eyes. There she stood, the whom he had come a thousand miles to see. She had come for him and he had come. Henceforth she was his forever.

Suddenly a muffled sob reached his ear. "Oh, Frank," came a murmur. "I've lost you; lost you!"

Half smiling, half grieving, the man started forward. "Oh, no, Kate," he exclaimed. "You haven't lost me—nor shall you."

With a startled cry the girl swung round. Then she threw up her hand, fending him off. "Mr. Howard!" she exclaimed. "Oh! Oh! Oh! I beg your pardon. You—you startled me. When—when did you arrive?"

"This minute. Old Tom let me in. I—I couldn't help hearing what you said. Oh, Kate!"

"You didn't! I didn't say anything. You heard nothing. Oh, if you are a gentleman you will forget everything you heard. Oh, I can't stand it! I can't stand it!" With a sudden turn she tried to rush from the room.

But Frank intercepted her. "Kate, Kate," he cried. "I'll forget it if you want me to, though it was the sweetest thing I ever heard. But—"

"Cease! Cease! You will drive me mad!"

"Why so, Kate, darling? Don't you care for me at all? I hoped when you telegraphed me—"

"I telegraphed you! I didn't! I didn't. What do you mean?"

"You didn't telegraph me! Then who did? Instantly it flashed on Frank that the letter must have been written in ashes."

"The letter," she continued bitterly, "was a cruel trick."

"Trick!" echoed the girl, her eyes half blinded by scalding tears, which she tried desperately to crush back. "It was no trick. Kate telegraphed you, of course. Who else?"

"Kate! What Kate?"

"What Kate! My cousin, Kate Breck, of course."

"Kate Breck! What in God's name had she to do answering my letter to you?"

"To me!" The girl faltered, and her cheek changed suddenly from red to white. "To me?" she whispered again. "To me? Oh!" With a gesture of despair she buried her face in her hands.

"With a single step, Frank was by her side and had grasped her roughly in his arms. "Yes," he cried. "Yes, to you, whom I have loved ever since the first minute I saw you, you, who have been my star of hope for more than a year. To you, of whom I have thought, for whom I have toiled, for whom I have—Oh, how could there be any mistake about it? I wrote to you and to you only. I—"

"Your letter was addressed to Kate Breck," sobbed the girl.

"It couldn't have been," insisted the man, pressing the yielding form closer and closer.

"It was," she remembered the similitude of the names even when I was writing and took particular pains to make sure I addressed it to you—to make sure I didn't make a mistake."

"You—no—nothing matters now. My darling, I have surmised your secret. Forgive me for it, though God knows how happy it makes me. But I give you mine in exchange. I love you! I love you!"

"But the girl pushed him back, freeing herself suddenly. "It is too late," she said hollowly. "It is too late. Your letter came to Kate, and she accepted you. She loves you, Frank, almost as much as I do, I think, and she has accepted you. You must go through with it now. You will pretend—you will marry her?"

"Marry her! I will not! I'll do nothing so foolish. It was a mistake. I'll not ruin all our lives by pretending."

"But you must!" interrupted a voice. And Kate Breck, white to the lips, but with a spot of bright color blushing on her cheeks, stepped into the parlor. "I owe you both an apology," she continued as the two faced her. "It wasn't my fault at first, but afterward, Mr. Howard, addressed to Kate Breck, but it was delivered to me by mistake with some other mail and was opened by me without noticing. You began, 'Dear Kate,' and I had read that nearly through before I realized that something was wrong and looked at the envelope. Then I saw what had happened. My first impulse was to go straight to Kate. My second was to take advantage of your proposal to help me in a plan of my own. I—"

quarrelled—with a friend of mine—the other day and wanted to revenge myself. I—I—oh, it's hard to tell you this, but it is my only excuse! I thought that if I could make him think I was engaged to some one I would be even with him. So I telegraphed to you, Mr. Howard, and I hinted to him that—oh, you understand, don't you? You will forgive me, won't you, Mr. Howard, and you, Kate?"

The other girl had listened with wide set eyes, staring into the other's face as if they would read her very soul. "Are you sure?" she asked, "quite sure that the letter was really addressed to me?"

Kate Breck laughed lightly. "Why of course," she answered, "of course it was addressed to you. You will forgive me, won't you?" she ended pleadingly.

"Why—certainly," murmured Frank awkwardly, while Kate went straight to the other and took her in her arms. "Dear Kate," she murmured.

Miss Breck freed herself gently, but decidedly. "There, there," she exclaimed hurriedly. "I must go. I've got your letter for you, Kate. I've—"

"I've burned it," she said, "I fear, but I have the letter safe, and I'll get it for you at once."

As the last words tumbled from her lips the girl hurried from the parlor, and, aided by the banisters, made her way to her room. Once there, she sank into a chair and pressed her hand to her heart. Then, mastering her emotion with an effort, she drew a letter from her breast, hurriedly slipped the inclosure from it and threw the empty envelope into the open fire that blazed in the grate.

"Goodby, dear love," she murmured softly, "goodby, goodby."

The fire caught the edge of the envelope and flamed up and for a moment the address stood out. It read quite plainly, "Miss Kate Breck, First street, Lexington, Ky." Then the whole crumbled away to ashes.

Mind Your Eye. "Most persons," says an oculist, "regard the eye as something rather apart from the rest of their anatomy and not in much relation to it. They hardly realize that the condition of sight affects their general health and are surprised to be told that when glasses are needed the wearing of them may add to their discomforts, make them sleep better or improve their appetites, yet this is true, as any oculist or physician knows. An overworked eye nerve is as much of an agitator in the human system as any of the other nerves under abnormal pressure. Brain workers in particular should keep their eyes in the best possible condition and render them every possible aid."

"One valuable help is sufficient rest. And right here it should be said that to stop using the eye in reading or in any other way, is a great mistake."

Dr. H. V. Pierce, forty years ago found that women were being mistreated through ignorance or carelessness and determined to devote his life and energies to their relief.

Having found the cause of their suffering, he next sought for the means of relief, and found in Nature's laboratory—the earth, certain roots which had remarkable and valuable medicinal virtues for the cure of these ailments.

Using chemically pure glycerine, of proper strength instead of alcohol, he prepared extracts of these, and the result was so satisfactory that the combination became his "Purifying Prescription."

The roots used are: Lady's Slipper root, Black Cohosh root, Unicorn root, Blue Cohosh root and Golden Seal root. The world knows it as Dr. Pierce's "Purifying Prescription," which has the wonderful and unparalleled record of a half-century—its use has been forty years.

Write to Dr. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y., for advice, given without charge.

"I am glad to be able to testify as to the purity of the medicine," writes Dr. J. C. McLaughlin, President of the Central Dispensary, Chicago, Ill., "I have known it for many years, and it is a most valuable remedy for many ailments, and it is a most valuable remedy for many ailments, and it is a most valuable remedy for many ailments."

After many years of suffering from eye troubles, and after having tried every remedy which had been my lot for so long, I shall never cease to be very grateful that it was brought to my notice. I have no pain, and feel much stronger generally."

Dr. Pierce's "Purifying Prescription" cleanses the clogged system from accumulated impurities.

IT DRAWS HARD



On a woman's vitality to do work for which she is untrained, and we wonder how much of the women of our land live through a single season of pleasurable distraction.

They will say with tears in their eyes, when they reflect on the subject at all, "it is a hard pull," that with pain, weakness and weariness they are "almost dragged out."

Many, in this condition, resort to alcoholic stimulants and "invigorants," the after effects of which are very injurious.

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NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the accounts of the subscriber, executor of Julia B. Ellis, deceased, will be audited and settled by the Surrogate and reported for settlement to the Orphans' Court of the County of Essex, on Saturday, the 20th day of January next.

Dated December 2, 1904.

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A. H. HAZEN, Executor.

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ESTATE OF MARY JANE ANDREWS,

deceased.

Pursuant to the order of GEORGE E. RUSSELL, Surrogate of the County of Essex, this day made, in the application of the undersigned executor of said deceased, notice is hereby given to the creditors of said deceased to exhibit their claims and demands against the estate of said deceased, within nine months from this date, or they will be forever barred from prosecuting or recovering the same against the subscriber.

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Residence and studio, 57 Orchard street.

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October 21, 1905.

ESTATE OF RAPHAEL ISIDORO

deceased.

Pursuant to the order of GEORGE E. RUSSELL, Surrogate of the County of Essex, this day made, in the application of the undersigned executor of said deceased, notice is hereby given to the creditors of said deceased to exhibit their claims and demands against the estate of said deceased, within nine months from this date, or they will be forever barred from prosecuting or recovering the same against the subscriber.

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